



September 22, 2006

**School Readiness Program
Cycle 2
Request for Funding
Due January 30, 2007**

Dear Executive Directors:

Enclosed you will find a **revised** copy of the School Readiness (SR) Program Request for Funding (RFF) dated September 2006. This version of the RFF must be completed by all County Commissions applying for funds for School Readiness Cycle 2 programs beginning on July 1, 2007. We appreciate the time, effort, and feedback of all those who participated in the revision process and anticipate that the changes to this RFF will make the reapplication process easier to complete.

In reviewing the revised RFF, you will find that core aspects of the SR Program remain intact; however, all Cycle 2 SR programs must include the following:

- Incorporate all First 5 fundamentals including the First 5 California Principles on Equity that address cultural and linguistic issues evident in the community.
- Include a multi-faceted approach to school readiness incorporating the five Essential and Coordinated SR Elements as they align with the First 5 California Statewide Research and Evaluation Framework Result areas.
- Provide a renewed focus on implementing evidenced-based practices in a family-focused, strength-based program design.
- Demonstrate strong potential to achieve results for children and families.

You will also find a new emphasis on other aspects of the SR Program that will refine the administration, implementation, and effective evaluation of local SR programming and activities.

- County Commissions whose Cycle 1 SR programs end on June 30, 2007 must apply for Cycle 2 funding by January 20, 2007 to avoid a break in services.
- County Commissions must apply for funding and operate SR Programs based on the state fiscal year (July 1 – June 30).
- County Coordination Funds (previously referred to as Implementation Funds) will continue to be available and will be accounted for through a separate budget form.

- Due to the increased importance of long-term and outcomes-based evaluation, County Commission applications for Cycle 2 SR funding must reflect a renewed focus on the selection and implementation of **evidence-based practices**.
- All funded SR programs (regardless of application date) will transition to the newly adopted Statewide Research and Evaluation Framework effective July 1, 2006. This transition includes reporting based on the four evaluation Result Areas. The table below summarizes the relationship between the new Framework and the five Essential and Coordinated SR Elements.

Five Essential and Coordinated SR Elements	First 5 Evaluation Framework/Annual Report Result Areas
1. Early Care and Education	1. Result Area: Improved Child Development
2. Parenting/Family Support Services	2. Result Area: Improved Family Functioning
3. Health and Social Services	3. Result Area: Improved Health
4. School's Readiness for Children	4. Result Area: Improved Systems of Care (Every SR Program must at least report on the outcome of School's Readiness for Children, in addition to other applicable outcomes.)
5. Infrastructure, Administration and Evaluation	ICycle 2 activities previously described and reported in this element should be included within Improved Systems of Care.

Thank you in advance for all of your hard work in developing responses to the Revised SR Program RFF. I look forward to continuing our work together on behalf of California's youngest children and their families.

Sincerely,

Kris Perry
Executive Director

cc: County School Readiness Coordinators